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## The Rouen Post, September 1948

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# THE ROUEN POST

Base Hospital 21 — World War I

21st Gen. Hosp. — World War II

A PAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF ROUEN POST No. 242  
AND ALL FORMER MEMBERS OF B.H. 21 and 21st. G.H.

## JULIA C. STIMSON DIES; NURSE AND EDUCATOR



Julia C. Stimson

Miss Julia Catherine Stimson, Chief Nurse of Base Hospital 21, World War I, died September 30, 1948 in a Poughkeepsie, N. Y., hospital. She was 67 years old.

She lived at Briarcliff Manor, N. Y., and maintained a summer residence at Rockland, Maine. She was the daughter of Henry A. Stimson, D.D., one time pastor of the Pilgrim church at St. Louis, Mo., and a cousin of the Honorable Henry L. Stimson, former Secretary of War.

A memorable service was held for her Saturday afternoon in the Congregational Church at Briarcliff. Twenty nurses in uniform appeared, as well as representatives from many nursing organizations and others.

Friends of Miss Stimson played the organ and cello for a half hour before the actual services. The church choir led the congregation in singing The Star Spangled Banner, which with the flags in the chancel, comprised the military touch to the service.

Surviving are three sisters, Mrs. Elbert H. Harvey, Duxbury, Mass., Dr. Barbara B. Stimson, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and Prof. Dorothy Stimson of Goucher College, Baltimore, Md., and a brother, Philip M. Stimson, New York.

Julia Catherine Stimson was born May 26, 1881. She received her Bachelor's degree from Vassar College in 1901 and was gradu-

ated from the New York Hospital School of Nursing in 1908. Subsequently she studied at Columbia University, majoring in biology and sociology, later completing the requirements for a Master's degree, which was awarded by Washington University in 1917 "in absentia," while she was overseas. In recognition of her war work, Mt. Holyoke College conferred upon her, in 1921, an honorary degree of Doctor of Science.

After graduating from the New York Hospital School of Nursing, she was Superintendent of Nurses at Harlem Hospital from 1908 thru 1910. In 1911 she became Administrator, Hospital Social Services, Washington University at St. Louis, Mo. In 1913 she was appointed Superintendent of Nurses of the Hospitals and Clinic, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo. She held this position until 1917 when she went overseas as Chief Nurse of Base Hospital 21.

Miss Stimson will ever be remembered by the members of Base Hospital 21 of World War I for her skillful organization and direction of the nursing service of the unit while operating No. 12 British General Hospital at Rouen, France.

Major General Meritte W. Ireland, Chief Surgeon of the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe, recognizing the extraordinary ability of this great woman, in 1918, appointed her Director of the Nursing Service of the A. E. F.

Under her vigorous and energetic leadership an exceptional standard of nursing service was maintained in the A. E. F., despite many seemingly insurmountable handicaps. Her skillful direction of the Army Nurse Corps in France led to Miss Stimson's appointment as Acting Superintendent of the entire Army Nurse Corps, in July 1919, upon her return from overseas. At the same time she was appointed Dean of the Army School of Nursing.



## THE ROUEN POST



Major Julia Stimson  
Retired

Under the National Defense Act of 1920, Julia C. Stimson was made a Major in the Army Nurse Corps, the highest rank in the corps at the time. She was the key figure in helping secure the amendment of the Act of 1920, which gave relative rank to the members of the Army Nurse Corps.

After 20 years of service, Miss Stimson, in 1937, retired from active duty.

She did not remain inactive very long. In 1938 she was elected President of the American Nurses Association and the same energy, devotion and time were her continued contributions to the nursing profession. She remained as President of the nursing Association until 1944.

In 1942 Major Stimson had been recalled to active service with the Army and was in St. Louis and every other important medical center of the United States in connection with plans for recruiting nurses, and for interpreting the special needs of the service.

Miss Stimson visited in St. Louis on a number of occasions. She came on for the Base Hospital 21 Reunion in 1937, commemorating the unit's 20th anniversary. Upon her return to BriarCliff we received a letter from her which we quote:

Dear Mr. Engel:

I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed the Reunion and what a thrill I got out of it. You may be sure that if I can help it nothing will prevent my return to others that you may have. May I congratulate you upon the way the arrangements were made for the doings in St. Louis. It seemed to me that they were beautifully done and that every one had a gorgeous time."

The next time we saw her was in November, 1942 when she had been reactivated by the Army. She arrived in St. Louis November 24, 1942 and was a guest at Washington University Nurses Residence during her stay in town. The Women's Auxiliary Committee of the Nurses Residence were hostesses at a tea party for her at the Residence on November 27, 1942. On November 28, Major Stimson, Estelle Claiborne, Louise Knapp and Mary Reynolds were the guests

of Louise Hilligass, at her country place, Hilli-Haven near Augusta, Mo.

Her most recent visit to St. Louis and the school, was at the time a banquet was given on December 11, 1945 at the Jefferson Hotel to welcome the return of the 21st General Hospital of World War II.

For her distinguished military service Major Stimson received:

The American Distinguished Service Medal

British Royal Red Cross, 1st Class

Medaille de la Reconnaissance Francaise

Medaille d'Honneur de l'Hygiene Publique

International Red Cross Florence Nightingale Medal.

In 1918 a book by Miss Stimson, entitled, "Finding Themselves" was published which was based on her war letters describing the experience of Base Hospital 21 crossing to France and taking over No. 12 General Hospital, B. E. F. She also wrote many other articles.

Despite her many activities Julia Stimson found time for a number of hobbies. She played the violin, was a lover of nature and books and spent many hours working with metal and enamel.

Thus, another distinguished member of Base Hospital 21 of World War I has departed this life but not without having left a heritage of high character, devotion, education and excellent service which shall long be remembered.

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We mourn with the family of  
JULIA CATHERINE STIMSON

"Splendid you passed, the great surrender made,  
Into the light that nevermore shall fade;  
Deep in your contentment in that blest abode,  
Who wait the last clear trumpet-call of God."

Members of Base Hospital 21

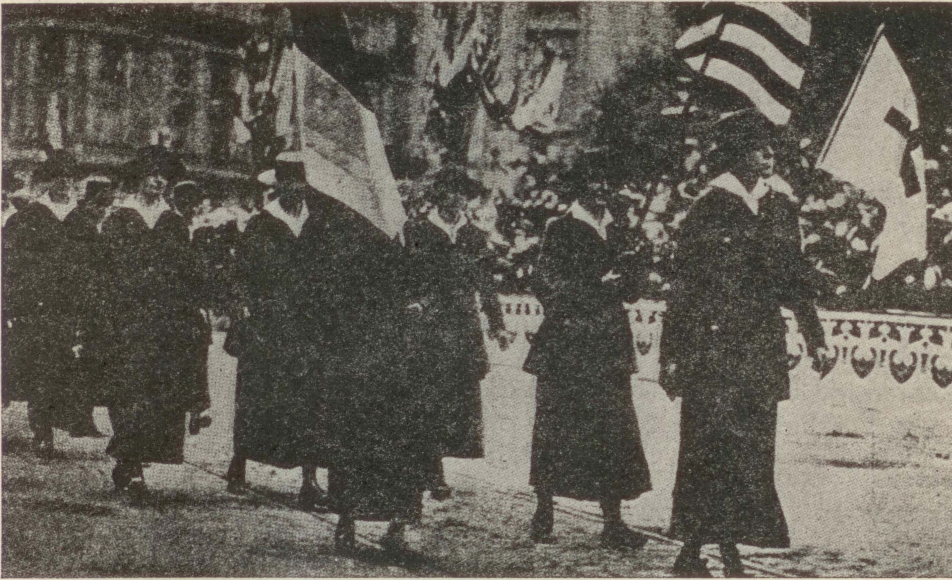
The family of the late Colonel Julia C. Stimson want to thank you very warmly, not only for the beautiful wreath of flowers which you sent, but also for your expression of sympathy.

Very sincerely yours,

PHILIP M. STIMSON



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American nurses, led by Julia Stimson, in the great parade in Paris of July 4, 1918. Miss Stimson, at the time, was Director of the Nursing Service of the A. E. F.

## JULIA C. STIMSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

An unidentified individual who was interested in the Washington University School of Nursing, recognizing the need for further preparation for positions of responsibility, gave a sum of money approximately four million dollars later increased to five million, the interest of which was used for scholarships in the School of Nursing.

Excerpts from the minutes of the Corporation of Washington University, June 12, 1918 record the fact that the donor suggested that in view of the excellent service and high character of Miss Julia Stimson, the Scholarship be named for her. He did not want his name used. It was recommended that his wishes be followed and that he be informed of the action of the Corporation, and extended their hearty thanks for his generosity.

The first scholarship was awarded in 1918. Since that time a scholarship has been awarded annually, to be used by graduates of the Washington University School of Nursing for advanced preparation for teaching, administration and public health positions. Twenty-six scholarships have been used thru September 3, 1948.

## WASHINGTON U. GIFT HONORS MEMORY OF DR. FRED T MURPHY

A gift of 177 publications of the Yale University Press has been received by Washington University in memory of Dr. Fred Towsley Murphy, graduate of Yale and professor of surgery at Washington University School of Medicine from 1911 to 1918.

The collection includes books on scientific, medical, historical and literary subjects.



## WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

*A Gift in Memory of*  
**FRED TOWSLEY MURPHY**  
*of the Class of 1897, Yale College*  
*Professor of Surgery*  
*Washington University Medical School*  
*1911-1919*  
*Founder and First Commanding Officer*  
*of its Hospital Unit in World War I*  
*1914-1918*





## THE ROUEN POST

Each book contains a book plate bearing reproductions of the seals of both schools. The collection was exhibited until October 16 in the faculty room of the medical library.

Volumes on medical and scientific subjects will be added to the medical library, and those on history and literature will become part of Ridgley Library on the main campus. Dr. Murphy was the founder and first commanding officer of the university's Base Hospital 21 in World War I.

Mrs. Murphy, wife of the late Dr. Murphy, visited the exhibit accompanied by Dr. and Mrs. Walter Fischel. Dr. Fischel also served with Base Hospital 21 in France.

### REPORT ON MISSOURI DEPARTMENT AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION

by Edward J. Manley



Edward J. Manley

The Thirtieth Annual Convention of the Missouri Department of the American Legion was convened at the Municipal Auditorium, Kansas City, Missouri over the Labor Day week-end September 5-6-7, 1948.

Nineteen hundred delegates and their families were in attendance for the three day session. The opening, on Sunday, was in county fair style, with old friends greeting each other, registering and entering free automobile contest. This contest is in conjunction with the National Convention in Florida in October.

Opening day of the convention found the Mayor of Kansas City and other city officials extending keys of the city to the Legionnaires and inviting them to take over the city. From turnouts in the hotel district it appeared that the Legionnaires took the Mayor literally. Before adjournment a very impressive Memorial Service was held on the Municipal Stage conducted by the Kansas City Guard of Honor. In the late afternoon the Veterans Welfare Committee maintained "open house" at their headquar-

ters, where refreshments were served and impromptu entertainment reigned.

Labor Day morning a gigantic and colorful parade through the downtown district took place, and it was gratifying to see the huge throngs who lined the streets to view the march. Hi-jinks, crack drum and bugle corps, aging veterans of World War I and the youthful veterans of World War II were the highlights of this very successful parade. After the parade, the convention reconvened. Our National Commander James F. O'Neil was the distinguished speaker for the morning session. He gave a fighting talk on the "Legion in Action."

Behind the scenes on Saturday and Sunday the various committees had been busy preparing the business for the Monday afternoon and Tuesday sessions. The Resolutions Committee offered resolutions concerning the following:

1. Immediate payment of a state bonus thru legislative action at the next General Assembly.
2. Ask Congress to make the home of the late General Pershing at Laclede, Mo., a national shrine.
3. Investigation of a proposal of a St. Louis post for the construction at Gasconade, Mo., of an institution similar to Boys Town.

Elections on Tuesday found John C. Jeffries of Hannibal, the successful candidate for Department Commander, William Stone of Kansas City was elected National Committeeman.

A banquet and dance Monday was a social highlight and a contrast to the serious business of the convention.

Special train accommodations for St. Louis Legionnaires to and from St. Louis enabled them to round out an excellent weekend.

### ROUEN POST No. 242 ANNUAL ARMISTICE PARTY

Saturday, November 6, 1948

at

Z D Ranch House

of

Dr. and Mrs. Edwin C. Ernst

2 Schultz Road

St. Louis County, Mo.

Bill Engel